

***Jefferson County  
Solid Waste and Air Quality (SWAQ) Committee***

**Assessment of Plans and  
Future Direction Workshops  
Part 1 and 2 Proceedings Report  
August 15 and September 19, 2008**

**Participants**

**Committee Members**

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November 20, 2008

- Draft -

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## ***Solid Waste and Air Quality Committee***

### **Agenda for Educational Workshop**

**August 15, 2008**

**UW-Extension Office**

- Pharmaceutical Waste: Update
- Workshop Exercise: Assessment of Plans and Future Direction
  - Plans Completed/Underway (Prompts)
    - Solid Waste Management – Overall Plan
    - Recycling
    - Air Quality
    - Environmentally Preferable Purchasing
  - Concerns/Challenges/Hopes Dialogue (Facilitated)

### **Agenda for Educational Workshop**

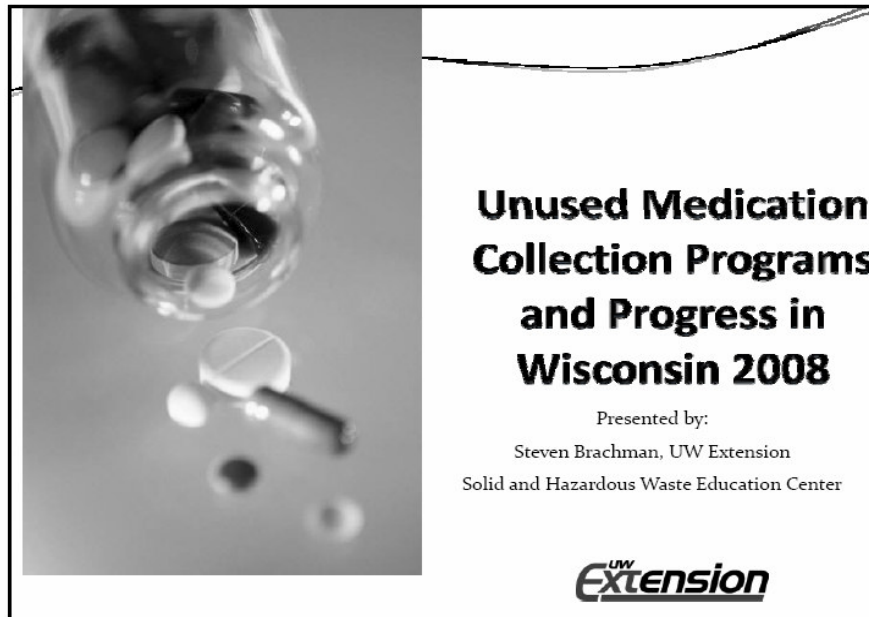
**September 19, 2008**

**UW-Extension Office**

- Workshop Exercise: Assessment of Plans and Future Direction - Continued

Section 1  
**UNUSED MEDICATION COLLECTION PROGRAMS  
AND PROGRESS IN WISCONSIN 2008**

By Steve Brachman  
UW-Extension, Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center



## WI Pharmaceutical Waste Working Group

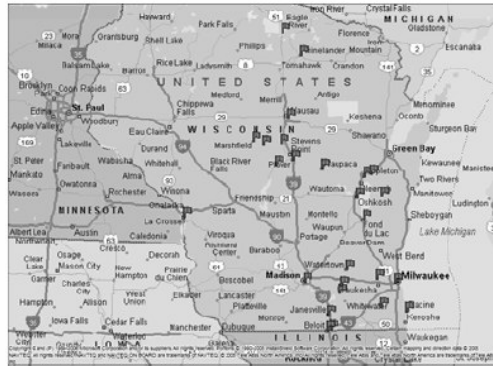
- Formed in 2006 as one day collection events were beginning
- Cross section of stakeholders
- Focused on 3 areas
  - Supporting information and educational outreach
  - Improving data collection
  - Developing pilot program models

## Unused Medication Collection Programs in Wisconsin

- One-day collection program activity is growing significantly in Wisconsin
  - 46 events in '08, including several ongoing programs
  - La Crosse county has developed a permanent collection site with deputized staff
- Mail-back pilot program in Waukesha and Winnebago counties launched in May

## Collection Events

- 50% increase from 2007 to 2008
- In 2007 =
  - 23,449 pounds of noncontrolled meds
  - 1,230 pounds controlled – average of 6% of total
  - 3,451 households + numerous VSQGs
- Over 1 million pills collected in Green Bay on Earth Day 2008



## 2008 Mail Back Pilot Program



**First to use a reverse distributor (Capital Returns)**  
**Pharmacies (100+) used as key information distribution points**  
**Data collection and participant evaluation planned.**

## Mail Back Publicity Tools important

- 30-40% of callers get information from pharmacy
- Other sources of info critical including:
  - Libraries
  - Word of mouth
  - Press/media

**EXPIRED MEDS? UNUSED MEDS?**

**GET THE MEDS OUT!**

*Keep our Kids Safe  
and our Waters Clean*

**IT'S EASY!**

Take part in a new, FREE program  
in Waukesha and Winnebago counties.

**RESIDENTS - DISPOSE OF OLD MEDICATIONS SAFELY**

**Call 1-800-958-5859**

for a prepaid envelope, then ship your medications in to be safely destroyed.

**Don't delay - Dispose today**  
(limited time opportunity)

Extension Sea Grant Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Wisconsin County

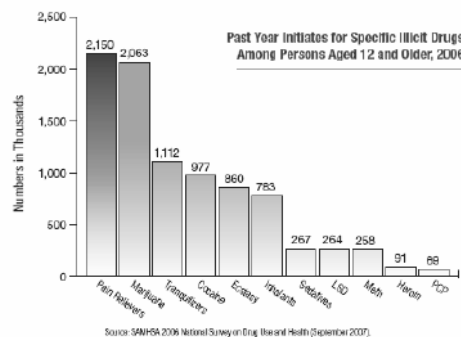
## Data Collection



- Provide data collection tools
- Identifying new collection programs and aggregate results
- Develop database of results

## Other emerging trends/issues

- HHW collections combined with pharmaceutical waste collection
- Product stewardship initiatives
  - National
  - Washington State bill
- No clarification from US DEA on controlled substances



## **Section 2**

### **ASSESSMENT OF PLANS AND FUTURE DIRECTION**

#### **Concerns/Challenges**

##### BeSmart Program

- a. Concerned about previous action on the BeSmart Initiative
- b. Concern about the “delivery” of the BeSmart education program
- c. Concern about “quick decision” on BeSmart education
- d. BeSmart cut could lose the two newspaper supplements and lose the “Resource Directory” (Earth Day/Week Supplements)
- e. Concerned about losing Earth Day Supplement if BeSmart is cut
- f. Could lose major education in several ways if BeSmart is cut
- g. Concerned about “knee-jerk” reaction with BeSmart action

##### Plans

- a. Good plans: Need to utilize and add awareness to plans
- b. Need: Keep Committee periodically updated on plans in existence

##### Recycling/Assessments/Waste

- a. Recycling Assessment of County facilities is outdated, and we don’t know how it is working
- b. Don’t know the extent to which recycling has increased with new containers in County facilities
- c. Concerned about not enough education (i.e. educational packets) to our County employees
- d. Have not seen enough “distribution” of educational materials for County employees
- e. Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) has not seen the light of day
- f. Concern that State recycling fees and funds generated have been diverted to other uses and not effectively returned to local folks/jurisdictions (affects Jefferson County)
- g. Citizens not aware that we are at risk of losing recycling revenue/programs (at the local level)
- h. Concerned about losing REI grants and demonstration grants (and the effects on Jefferson County)
- i. Committee has not actively pursued contacts with State leaders on the importance of recycling efforts
- j. Could see lots of tvs in landfills after the February change/conversion to digital
- k. Concern about fuels/volatiles/chemicals going into the atmosphere

##### Wood Burning/Other

- a. Wood burning stoves and particulate matter is still a problem

##### Ag Bags

- a. “Ag Bags” burning is a problem

##### Deer Track

- a. Concern/Challenge that current estimates/projections are that Deer Track has a life expectancy of 10 years



### Air Quality

- a. Committee did not address “Air Quality” last time
- b. The Committee has not had lots of focus on air quality. It’s been limited to Jepsen’s reports and Nancy’s “Burn Barrel” brochure and talks
- c. Concern about different ways that Towns allow burning (different burning limitations and permits)
- d. Need more monitoring of Town-allowed burning
- e. Need more “assessment” by Committee of Town-allowed burning
- f. Possibly Committee should work with DNR on various rural burning issues
- g. Concern about health implications of rural burning
- h. Concerned and frustrated about power plant emissions
- i. Concerned about difficulty of local groups/committees to affect Statewide policy on utility emissions
- j. Concerned that citizens are not paying attention to “air quality alerts” (i.e. high ozone/particulate matter warnings)
- k. County Human Resources has an educational brochure, but not sure how it is being distributed to County employees

### **Strengths/Opportunities/Hopes**

#### BeSmart Program

- a. “Be Smart” is a good educational program; demonstrated as effective
- b. Opportunity: lower-cost ways to do “BeSmart-like” education?
- c. Opportunity to restore BeSmart funding for another year and further evaluate
- d. Teachers in Jefferson County have “loved the work” of BeSmart
- e. Have documentation on positive education from BeSmart
- f. Opportunity for REI grants/incentives as another way to fund BeSmart in Jefferson County
- g. Possibility of creative funding of “community start-up” money from Jefferson County (for BeSmart education/other at a local level)
- h. Opportunity to involve individual communities in BeSmart (for education and broader activities)
- i. BeSmart funding is non-tax levy money

#### Plans

- a. Opportunity to update County facility assessment and plan
- b. Opportunity to share natural step framework and methodology with Committee

#### Recycling/Assessments/Waste

- a. Opportunity to look at the effectiveness of recycling contract with John’s
- b. Opportunity for the County to examine its own waste stream
- c. Hope to update “percentage of recycling” data (R.U.s/municipalities in Jefferson County report annually to DNR so DNR has trend data on recycling)
- d. Hope to provide awareness on effectiveness of Community/Town/County recycling and publicize on County web site
- e. Hope that “waste hauler contracts” better track waste and recycling volumes in order to provide “quarterly reports” (BeSmart has got “Fair” contractor to provide this information)
- f. Hope for a redesign of the Solid Waste portion of the County web site (This is a major undertaking and needs new staff resources/special skills.)

- g. Hope for overall “waste minimization” at the landfill - (1) reduce; (2) reuse...then (3) recycle
- h. Hope to use “20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Wisconsin Recycling” as a means to refocus on the importance of recycling
- i. Hope to better use County newsletters/web sites to raise employee awareness/air quality State outreach tips site/press release on 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary

#### Education

- a. Jefferson County has been a “shining example” of sound education

#### Financial

- a. In a strong financial position from tipping fee revenue

#### Air Quality/Wood Burning/Other

- a. Hope for Town burning, utility and alerts notices
- b. Opportunity for an educational campaign on wood stove burning

#### Ag Bags

- a. Opportunity for County to further explore status of “Ag Bags” in Jefferson County (Note: Spot checks have shown that Ag Bags are being landfilled or put in dumpsters by Jefferson County farmers)
- b. Opportunity to explore recycling of Ag Bags

#### Deer Track

- a. Opportunity to explore new business opportunities around Deer Track Park; co-generation
- b. Opportunity for enhanced partnering on recycling between County/Deer Track at Deer Park
- c. Opportunity to be aware of changes in recycling and composting ideas at landfill

#### Energy

- a. Opportunity for Committee to explore waste-to-energy ideas

#### Advocacy

- a. Hope to alert State legislators on several key matters affecting solid waste, air quality, recycling, etc.

#### Electronics

- a. Hope that new State regulation/legislation puts stronger emphasis on stopping electronic equipment from being disposed of in landfills (right now tvs, phones, etc. are being landfilled in Jefferson County)
- b. Hope to implement strategy on “Special Waste/Electronic” disposal which is in 2004 plan
- c. Hope to address importance of “electronic recycling” as a result of February 2009 conversion to digital tv
- d. Hope to raise importance of “Product Stewardship”. “Extend Producer Responsibility”

**Section 3**  
**AREAS OF EMPHASIS AND FOLLOW-UP**

- Education of our County employees/with County facilities/recycling – revisit
- Recycling awareness to broader community – Committee do more and complement BeSmart  
Note: two or three main plans and keep movement on existing, proposed strategies
- County Human Resources has an educational brochure on air quality/burning, but not sure how it is being distributed to County employees
- Have not seen enough “distribution” of educational materials for County employees
- Hope to provide awareness on effectiveness on Community/Town/County recycling and publicize on County web site
- Hope for a redesign of the Solid Waste portion of the County web site (This is a major undertaking and needs new staff resources/special skills.)